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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8655  
INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0255  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1662  
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY 0019  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY 0234  
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY 0032  
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY 0404  
RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 0513  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1814  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0568  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2200  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0611  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 8767  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0819  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0280  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 000289

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STATE PASS AF/C CHRISTOPHER LAMORA AND IO/PSC HEATHER VON  
BEHREN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/03/2019

TAGS: [KPKO](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UNSC](#) [CG](#) [BE](#)

SUBJECT: BELGIUM: GOB RESPONSE TO URGENT MONUC DEMARCHE

REF: SECSTATE 18863

Classified By: A/DCM Richard Eason for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (C) On March 2, PolOff and PolIntern delivered Reftel points regarding the threat of Indian troop withdrawal from MONUC. Contacts noted that they had received similar information from the Belgian mission to the UN. In fact, they had learned that the DPKO had communicated to multiple UN missions, and that the Indians were displeased when they learned of the effort. The GOB shared US concerns that an Indian withdrawal would have drastic humanitarian and security implications, but chose to wait to obtain more information before approaching the Congolese. An MFA contact notified us March 3 that the Belgian's had learned from New York and Kinshasa that UNSYG Ban Ki-Moon had made an unambiguous representation on this issue to President Kabila over the weekend. They said President Kabila had agreed to make a small gesture, either by making a statement or sending his Foreign Minister to New Delhi, to convince the Indians they are still welcome and that their effort in the DRC is appreciated. After receiving this information, the GOB decided that no urgent demarche was necessary.

¶2. (C) Our contacts noted that Belgium has been pleading for a dialogue between the UN and MONUC-contributing nations on the new mandate and expectations, but Belgium feels that no good communication had been achieved. The MFA speculates that MONUC's new rules of engagement may play a role in India's threat to withdraw. They want to figure out whether India's pullout is really related to President Kabila's letter to the UN, or an underlying reluctance to expose troops to combat under the new MONUC mandate.

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